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The Honorable Howard W. Smith, Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In your letter of 20 May 1958 you request my views on H. R. 12534, which is a bill pending before your Committee. This bill would establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Intelligence and is similar to other joint committee proposals which have been made in the past.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have been keenly aware of the extreme sensitivity pervading much of the foreign intelligence field and have taken measures to give maximum protection to intelligence and to intelligence sources and methods. To this end both Houses have formally constituted Subcommittees for Central Intelligence of their respective Armed Services Committees. Appropriations for this Agency are handled by special Subcommittees of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. This Agency appears before these four committees periodically and keeps them currently informed on matters relating to intelligence. Because of the deep interrelation between intelligence and the national defense and security, the award of jurisdiction to Subcommittees of the Armed Services Committees has, we believe, been profitable and tends to keep disclosure of sensitive information on a need-to-know basis.

In considering the proposal of a Joint Committee, we believe the nature and scope of this Agency's legislative problems are pertinent. Since the passage of the National Security Act of 1947, which created the Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, which granted to the Agency necessary authorities to enable

it to carry out its functions, there have been but a few isolated pieces of legislation referring to this Agency. As instances:

1. The Agency was one among many included in the saving provision of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (section 502(d)(17)).
2. Salaries of the Director and Deputy Director of Central Intelligence are set forth in section 104(a) of the Federal Executive Pay Act of 1956.
3. The Agency was one of many exempted from the Classification Act of 1949 (section 202(16)).
4. In the 1956 amendments to the Internal Security Act of 1950, the Director of Central Intelligence was given, along with the Attorney General, certain authorities in connection with registration of persons who have been involved with foreign espionage activities.
5. The Agency was named along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with cooperation with the Immigration and Naturalization Service in section 105 of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, and certain other provision was made for the Agency in section 316(c) of that act.
6. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorized the Atomic Energy Commission and the Director of Central Intelligence to take action in regard to certain information in section 142(e).
7. The Agency was exempted from the Performance Rating Act in the Government Employees Fringe Benefits Bill of 1954 (section 601).
8. The Military Construction Act of 1955 authorized in section 401 the construction of a headquarters installation for the Central Intelligence Agency. Appropriations for this purpose are contained in the Supplemental Appropriation Act of 1956 (Chapter III) and the Supplemental Appropriation Act of 1957 (Chapter III).
9. The Director of Central Intelligence was made one of a group to act on rewards to persons furnishing certain information by section 3 of the Atomic Weapons Rewards Act of 1955.

10. The Agency was exempted from furnishing certain information to the Congress by section 11(b) of P. L. 801, 84th Congress, 2d Session (1956), amending the Civil Service Act of 1903.

As can be seen, a considerable number of these legislative provisions are properly contained in acts relating primarily to other agencies and activities and which came within the jurisdiction of a variety of congressional committees. No difficulty has been encountered in handling such matters in this manner. It is also evident that the Agency is not faced annually with a substantial legislative program. Except as we may be included in bills pertaining to pay raises for employees, the Agency has no legislation presently before the Congress. The only possibility we can see at the present time of specific legislation on behalf of the Agency would be proposals related to technical administrative authorities, and we have not at this time specific proposals of this nature. Consequently, there is no need from our point of view for a special committee to be assigned to central intelligence matters as there would, for the most part, be little from a legislative angle to occupy such a committee.

I am keenly aware of the need for keeping the Congress appropriately informed, and in this regard I have in recent months appeared before various committees of the Congress to give them information pertinent to their responsibilities. To the best of our knowledge we have been able to give reasonable satisfaction to requests for information from members of Congress as well as from Committees. In all our relations the aspect that is paramount for our work is security. We have always received fullest cooperation from the Congress in security matters.

Sincerely,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

OGC:LRH:jeb

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SA/PD/DCI

Asst to DCI (Grogan)

Legislative Counsel *WMA 50 10 22 WMA 11*

General Counsel *w/BASIC*